



# ***Overview of Federal Funding Agency Priorities and Interdisciplinary Themes***

**Office of Government and  
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- Budget Outlook for Federally-Funded Research
- Interagency Research Themes and Initiatives
- Specific Agency Activities and Directions
- Georgia Tech's Federal Funding Priorities



- Federal agencies implementation of sequestration.
  - Efforts to protect essential priorities.
- Finalization of FY 2013 federal funding – March 2013.
  - Omnibus bill provides some additional flexibility, but many research programs still affected.
- President's FY 2014 budget request proposes sustained increases for many major science accounts; basic research has best chance of receiving bipartisan support.
- Undetermined path for mandatory spending reductions for healthcare, education, etc.



# *Sequester is Here... For How Long?*



Source: Steve Sack, Star Tribune



- Broad agreement that this is bad policy – divergent views over what's better.
- Biggest impact already occurring – affecting agency attitudes.
- Final FY 2013 bills – Congress provides more flexibility and differential increases for some agencies.
- Largest impact on *future* awards:
  - Many NIH institutes: Already have implemented lower pay-lines (~10% success rate).
  - NSF: Delayed solicitations, fewer awards.
  - Large projects will be subject to reductions.
- New initiatives favored but also most susceptible to delay.
- Agency program managers are holding highly scored proposals in reserve if sequestration is reversed.
- Obligated funds protected.





- Universities have to adjust to relatively flat federal research budgets for coming years.
- Will be efforts to return to more *regular* order for spending in FY 2014 or 2015.
- R&D and basic research still a TOP priority on both sides of the aisle.
- New initiatives still expected in the current environment.
- Public-private partnerships will remain the favored mechanism for large-scale efforts.



# Research Funding in President's FY 2014 Budget Request

In thousands of \$	FY 2013 Request	FY 2013 CR/Omnibus*	FY 2014 Request	FY 2014 Request vs. FY 2013 Request	FY 2014 Request vs. FY 2013 CR/Omnibus*
NSF	7,373,100	7,393,100	7,625,780	252,680 (3.4%)	232,680 (3.2%)
DOE Science	4,992,052	4,903,461	5,152,752	160,700 (3.2%)	249,291 (5.1%)
NASA Science	4,911,200	5,144,000	5,017,800	106,600 (2.2%)	-127,000 (2.5%)
DOD Basic Research	2,116,874	2,130,275	2,164,934	48,060 (+2.3%)	34,659 (1.6%)
NIH	30,698,000	31,057,115	31,331,387	633,387 (2.1%)	274,272 (0.8%)
USDA (AFRI)	325,000	297,956	383,376	58,376 (18.0%)	85,420 (28.7%)

\* Does not include rescissions or sequestration



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# ***Interagency Research Themes and Initiatives***





## Multi-agency research priorities for FY 2014:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Materials Research
- Big Data
- Innovation and Commercialization
- Graduate Education
- Mental Health and Gun Control
- Urban Opportunity
- Cybersecurity
- International
- Energy and Environment
- Neuroscience
- Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation



- Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) launched in June 2011.
- DOD, DOE, NSF, DOC/NIST, and NASA all involved in the effort.
- Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office (AMNPO) hosted by NIST to coordinate interagency efforts.
  - White Paper/Roundtable opportunities for input.
- Timeline:
  - March 2012 – President Obama announced \$1 billion proposed National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI).
  - August 2012 – First NNMI pilot awarded to Ohio in Additive Manufacturing.
  - May 2013 – Three new pilot competitions announced – two from DOD, one from DOE.



- Materials Genome Initiative launched in 2011 to integrate computational and experimental tools to speed material design.
  - NSF, DOE, DOD, and NIST main agencies involved
  - More individual agency activities (e.g. MRSEC) than new interagency programs
  - Administration interest in data sharing/standards, computational training, commercialization
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary (June 2013)
- National Nanotechnology Initiative continues.
  - Focus on commercialization and founding of new industries
  - Signature initiatives in nanomanufacturing, sensors, solar energy, and nanoelectronics
- DOD and DOE focus on replacement and recycling of critical rare materials.
- NSF Materials 2022 report on instrumentation funding:
  - Focus on funding for instrumentation development, professional instrumentation staff, Materials Discovery Centers



- Obama Administration Big Data initiative launched March 2012.
  - Focus on new tools and techniques to manage vast and complex data sets.
  - NSF, NIH, DOD, and DOE are most engaged agencies.
  - Individual agency programs more predominant than interagency activities.
  - Joint NSF-NIH Big Data Competition.
    - First round was very competitive – 560 proposals submitted
- NIH Big Data to Knowledge initiative announced December 2012.
  - Data sharing and big data tools.
  - Enhance training in computational skills for biomedical researchers.
    - RFI out now with comments due March 15
  - New Centers of Excellence for Biomedical Big Data.
    - Request for Applications (RFA) expected in Spring.
    - Up to 15 investigator-initiated centers and between 2 and 5 NIH-directed centers through FY 2014 and FY 2015.



- Administration sees innovation as key priority to support the U.S. economy.
- Administration and federal agencies are exploring ways to reduce the barriers in the translation of research results into new products, industries, and jobs.
- Increased focus at federal agencies on:
  - Public-private partnerships (e.g. NNMI).
  - Innovation training (e.g. NSF I-Corps program).
  - Translational science/drug development (e.g. NCATS at NIH).
  - Support for proof of concept funding (e.g. NHLBI CAI; NSF AIR).
  - Efforts to use low cost innovations to support change (e.g. USAID DIV).



- New thinking on graduate education throughout federal agencies.
- NSF IGERT would evolve into NSF Research Traineeships (NRT) – would support institutional training programs focused on areas of need for both the federal government and the STEM enterprise.
- General themes:
  - Preparation for alternate careers
  - Diversity
  - Interdisciplinary skills
  - Industrial and international experience
  - Ability to address social issues
  - Sustainability/retention
- NIH has new Biomedical Research Workforce and Diversity Initiatives.
  - Awards for innovative approaches to enhance traditional graduate training.
  - New *Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity* program to support mentoring and scholarships.
  - *Big Data to Knowledge* initiative looking at interdisciplinary training.
- NSF in rethinking stage for 2013 – New GROW program to support international experiences for fellows; potential for additional changes and new models.





White House Executive Order; State of the Union; Congressional Legislation; and President's FY 2014 Budget Request.

- Research:
  - CDC can now conduct research on causes/prevention of gun violence.
  - Seek innovative technologies to advance gun safety.
  - NIH/CDC restriction on funding for research incorporating firearm issues.
  - OSTP interagency working group on neuroscience.
  - Finalizing mental health parity legislation.
  - NAS study on impact of violent video games.
- Treatment:
  - Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education for detection and services for students.
- Workforce training:
  - Members of Congress seeking data.
  - Hiring incentives for schools in need of mental health professionals.
  - Funding for mental and behavioral health education and training.



- President Obama still a champion for urban initiatives, emphasis on working toward comprehensive solutions (education, housing, transportation):
  - HUD's Sustainable Communities (rebranded Integrated Planning and Investment Grants for FY 2014)
  - HUD's Choice Neighborhoods (continuum of HOPE VI program)
  - ED's Promise Neighborhoods
  - CNCS' Social Innovation Fund
- BUT Congress not fully bought-in—only limited support.
- New in FY 2014 Budget Request:
  - Promise Zones: Aligning Choice and Promise Neighborhoods programs, as well as providing tax incentives, to 20 communities with a high concentration of poverty—will be competitively awarded.
- President Obama likely to increase emphasis on urban initiatives after major political battles on budget, immigration, and gun control.



- Emphasis on both research and training/workforce issues.
- Varying approaches on cyber legislation: piecemeal vs. comprehensive.
  - Narrower scope bills already underway re: research/workforce and information sharing.
- Majority of current federal funding to industry; federal government looking to leverage private sector expertise, but opportunities exist for universities—strong emphasis on public-private partnerships.
- In addition to producing research, universities can serve as conveners:
  - Honest brokers.
  - Ability to highlight proven models.
  - Bring industry and other stakeholders together to solve large cyber challenges.
- University funding (smaller scale) still available:
  - NIST NCCOE (NIST currently seeking industry partners—universities scale participation).
  - New NIST Centers of Excellence program (cyber among proposed foci).
  - Ongoing programs and initiatives at NSF, DOD, and DHS—primarily competitive.



- Agencies have mixed views on value of international collaboration amidst budget constraints.
  - NSF and DOD – Globalization an opportunity to leverage limited dollars.
  - NIH – Reducing support for international activities.
  - Agencies looking for low-cost ways to promote collaboration (e.g. NSF role in Global Research Council).
- Science diplomacy forced to back burner as foreign policy focus has shifted to unforeseen areas (Mali, Egypt, Iran, etc.).
  - Administration's planned pivot to Asia Pacific and Latin America complicated by events in Africa and Middle East.
- USAID and State Department – Use of science, technology, and innovation to modernize global development a top priority.
  - USAID programs including *HESN*, Development Innovation Ventures, and *Grand Challenges for Development* continue to provide opportunities.



- Administration remains focused on development of clean energy technologies to spur economic growth; limited dollars will be allocated to a few large programs.
- Congressional Republicans largely opposed to funding for climate change initiatives; however, resurgence of interest in climate change policies (cap and trade/carbon tax) following SOTU.
- NSF, USDA, and NIH focused heavily on climate, energy, and environment through multidisciplinary initiatives.
- DOD increasingly interested and investing in renewable energy technologies to enhance energy security and stabilize budgeting.



- Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) initiative to revolutionize understanding of the brain and brain diseases
  - Announced April 2 and included in President's FY 2014 budget proposal
  - DARPA: \$50 million to study brain function dynamics and demonstrate breakthrough applications
  - NIH: \$40 million to develop new tools, training; working group of ACD will guide effort and suggest priorities
  - NSF: approximately \$20 million; workshops
  - Private partners will also contribute, continuing the public-private partnership trend
- Interagency Working Group on Neuroscience to coordinate government-wide activities on brain, learning, cognition
  - Wide range of agencies represented
  - Final report (5-10 key areas of research) expected in June





- Translational research remains a priority for the Administration – NIH and FDA grappling with reinventing clinical enterprise – Better, Faster, Cheaper
  - NCATS established and focused on science translation across diseases/illnesses
  - Streamline development process, decrease development time and cost
  - FDA drug approval process: improved use of science
  - Increase drug pipeline
- Ongoing academia, industry, and federal partnerships
  - Development of multi-CTSA initiatives to increase national capacity for clinical and translational research
  - NIH-FDA-DARPA regulatory science partnership (Tissue Chip for Drug Screening)
  - NCATS collaborating with industry partners to discover new therapeutic uses for existing drugs/molecules
  - NIH making efforts to improve effectiveness of SBIR/STTR programs



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# ***Specific Agency Activities and Directions***



- Focus on interdisciplinary “OneNSF” initiatives aligned with Obama Administration Priorities:
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Cyberinfrastructure Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science and Engineering (CIF21)
  - NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps)
  - Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE)
  - Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability (SEES)
  - Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC)
- New Priorities:
  - Clean Energy
  - Research at the Interface of Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Engineering (BioMaPS)
  - Cognitive Science and Neuroscience
  - Early Career Development (CAREER)
  - STEM Education – consolidation of programs across NSF and other government agencies
- New Leadership:
  - Former director Subra Suresh stepped down, search ongoing
  - New leaders in Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Geosciences, and Engineering
- Policy issues:
  - Open access
  - Administrative burdens on researchers
  - High staff turnover



- Award trends
  - Milestone-driven, collaborative “U” award mechanism utilized more
  - Special consideration for first-time applicants continues; new concerns over achieving second grants
  - FY 2014 President’s budget proposes \$106 million (3.6 percent) cut to NIH research center grants, most likely to help preserve funding for individual investigator-initiated grants
  - Some institutes have already decreased use of program project grants (P01)
- NIH structure and policies
  - NCATS finding its feet, but has no funding for new activities
  - NIDA-NIAAA merger cancelled; functional integration being pursued
  - Peer review process under scrutiny to increase innovative projects and improve diversity of grantees
  - OMB grant reform to have minimal effect on NIH grant processes



- Each NIH institute/center has been given some flexibility to devise its own operating plan for remainder of FY 2013 (sequestration cuts)
- FY 2014 President's budget request proposes \$31.3 billion for NIH; indicative of support, includes a number of initiatives
  - BRAIN initiative
  - Translational sciences: increased funding proposed for NCATS and its Cures Acceleration Network
  - Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K): continuation of NIH working group plans; includes centers of excellence, other activities coordinated with NSF and DOE
  - Alzheimer's disease research: continuation of National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease announced last year; drug and therapeutic development emphasized
  - Biomedical workforce initiatives: continuation of NIH working group recommendations on workforce needs and diversity



- Assists patients, caregivers, and providers in making informed evidence-based decisions about health care through clinical effectiveness research
  - Research should answer questions that matter to the patient and caregiver
  - Patients are part of the research team
- Funded research supports PCORI's *National Priorities for Research* and its *Research Agenda*
  - Four initial advisory panels have recently been established and populated; additional panels likely added in the future
- Two “complementary” funding paths:
  - Supports three broad funding cycles a year
  - Will support targeted funding for five topics in 2013; currently conducting workshops, soliciting input for first set of targeted PFAs expected in June





- Energy research central to driving Administration policy goals (energy security and independence, climate change, advanced manufacturing, sustainability).
  - Energy Innovation Hubs remain hallmark of Administration and combine numerous disciplines across the public-private spectrum; 5 of 8 proposed hubs have been funded to date, Smart Grid Hub again proposed for FY 2014.
  - ARPA-E's high-risk, high-reward research remains popular with members of both parties; President requests a substantial increase for FY 2014.
- Transitioning leadership leaves DOE without a forceful advocate; Moniz confirmed.
- Challenges to DOE's research portfolio remain:
  - EERE's applied research portfolio under scrutiny as duplicative of private-sector.
  - Traditional Office of Science programs pinched as emphasis moves toward Hubs, EERE, and ARPA-E.
  - National labs competing with one another to remain relevant as budgets tighten.



- DOD science and technology programs remain a priority despite funding constraints.
  - New grants could be delayed until FY 2014 and beyond to minimize impact of sequestration; seeking “disruptive technologies.”
  - Air Force and Navy likely long-term funding winners due to Asia pivot.
- Defense Strategic Guidance guiding policy decisions; increased reliance on technology to offset budget reductions budgets and total troop size.
  - Cybersecurity and autonomy will remain emphases regardless of ASD-R&E. Maintaining technological workforce a major concern (particularly cyber); other priorities include big data, manufacturing, energy, and counter-WMD.
  - Social sciences being incorporated across BAAs; future of Minerva uncertain given leadership changes, President proposes steep reduction for FY 2014.



- **Army Research Office:**
  - Continues strong focus around broad basic research topics including physics, materials, computing, engineering, life sciences, and environmental sciences.
  - Emphasis remains around broad scientific areas, but ARO is aligned with crosscutting DOD priorities like big data, manufacturing, and materials.
- **Office of Naval Research:**
  - Leading funder of basic research across service branches.
  - Priorities include sensors/communications, energy, and portable weapons.
- **Air Force Office of Scientific Research:**
  - Recent realignment under five new thrust areas reflects increasing interdisciplinary approach to funding research.
  - Priorities include cyber/information science, materials, alternative energy, and communications.



- **DARPA:**
  - Focused on game-changing R&D around threats of the future; program managers enjoy broad autonomy in funding projects.
  - Cyber/cloud computing, big data, and health/biological research top priorities under new Director Prabhakar.
- **DTRA:**
  - Basic and applied research on bio/chemical/nuclear/information sciences geared towards countering weapons of mass destruction.
  - Small, but underutilized research opportunity for universities.
- **TARDEC:**
  - R&D focused on tank and automotive technology; universities can engage through BAAs, CRADAs, and regular programs.
  - Electronics, energy/fuel use, robotics, communications, and materials are core focus areas.



- DHS continues to be an Administration priority; border security, cyber defense, disaster resiliency, immigration enforcement, and terrorist prevention remain the central agency foci.
- The S&T Directorate's (R&D arm) top foci are:
  - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Defense
  - Disaster Resilience
  - First Responders
  - Cybersecurity
- DHS trying to shift its R&D focus to more field-ready technologies that can be easily adapted for DHS-specific purposes.
  - Universities able to participate in funding projects; existing industry partnerships, especially in areas like cyber, will be key to successfully obtaining research funds.
- Despite recent Congressional support, future DHS S&T funding remains uncertain and could be a target.



- Administration support for Science and Space Technology.
  - Discussions about future of Planetary science and flagship missions.
  - Earth Science “protected” by Administration; climate research a partisan issue in Congress.
  - JWST continues to be major priority within Science Mission Directorate; no new wedges for Astrophysics until JWST is completed.
  - PI-led missions (i.e., Venture Class, Discovery, Explorer) are a high priority.
- Support grows for new Space Technology Mission Directorate.
  - \$573 million in FY 2012; in FY 2013, House proposed \$632 million and Senate proposed \$651 million
  - Future advanced space systems concepts and enabling technology.
  - Across the Technology-Readiness-Level spectrum.
- Top priority science decadal missions putting pressure on smaller programs.
- NASA Human Space Flight program is in flux
  - Dispute about next destination (asteroid?).





- Urban and smart infrastructure a focus area for Administration for the next 4 years. The Administration's approach and investments to support domestic infrastructure development include:
  - Efforts to improve resilience, monitoring, and other "smart" features embedded in university research.
  - Improving transportation and infrastructure resources is linked to economic growth.
  - Providing access to jobs, revenue, health care, and education.
- Infrastructure renewal emphasized with renewed interest expected as transportation reauthorization bill expires in 2014.
  - University Transportation Centers (UTC) program underwent significant changes in this bill; remains DOT's flagship university research program.
- DOT's strategic goals: safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, livable communities, and environmental sustainability – permeate DOT's research portfolio.
  - Much of the research funding flows through state agencies; opportunities for partnership.



- USDA's core mission (food and nutrition) a high priority for Administration
  - Priorities include: childhood obesity prevention, climate change, food safety, global food security, and sustainable bioenergy
  - PCAST ag research report (December 2012) calls for a rebalancing of intramural (ARS) and extramural (AFRI) research within USDA
- USDA leadership is engaged in research
  - Secretary Vilsack staying for Obama's second term
  - NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy well-liked by Hill
- AFRI has good support in Congress, despite the fiscal climate
  - 2012 House and Senate Farm Bills maintained AFRI's authorization level at same level as 2008 Farm Bill (\$700 million); this level maintained in this year's versions
  - Both House and Senate proposed increases to AFRI for FY 2013; final FY 2013 funding level (before sequestration) is \$298 million
  - FY 2014 President's budget request supports increase in AFRI budget to \$383 million
  - Hard choices for Members of Congress (e.g. Do we feed children (SNAP) or support research?)



- HRSA funding for universities is primarily for training, not research.
- Provides support for training, technical assistance, direct financial assistance to state and local healthcare entities (e.g. for HIV/AIDS or emergency services for children), and very targeted research activities.
- Funding is disbursed thematically through bureaus/offices:
  - Bureau of Health Professions; Bureau of Primary Health Care; Bureau of Maternal and Child Health; Office of Rural Health; Office of Women's Health.
- Funds provided for:
  - Health Professions (Title VII/VIII programs) – Includes loans/scholarships to students and on-campus training programs covering nursing, geriatrics, public health, dentistry, mental and behavioral health, and other health professions.
  - Health Centers – HRSA's signature program, funds 1,100+ community-based health centers (e.g. FQHCs).



- Funding for universities provided for information and data dissemination; policy development; grants (service-focused rather than research)
- SAMHSA as resource for data collection
- Strategic Plan → Eight strategic initiatives framing all SAMHSA activities:
  1. prevention
  2. trauma and justice
  3. military families
  4. recovery support
  5. health reform
  6. health information technology
  7. data outcomes and quality
  8. public awareness and support
- Largest programs are state block grants.
- SAMHSA participating in implementation of Gun Violence Reduction Executive Actions and leading National Dialogue on Mental Health activities
  - FY 2014 request includes joint HRSA/SAMHSA funding for new program and increases to overall mental health focused on youth.



- Various mechanisms for DOJ funding:
  - National Institute of Justice (NIJ) – Competitive funding for universities and researchers through research, evaluation, fellowships.
  - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – Formula grants to states, sub-grants for universities available but determined by state.
- NIJ undergoing long term review
  - Creation of advisory board/increase overall transparency
  - Strengthen peer review process
  - Strengthen graduate training/Enhance pool of researchers
  - Increasing push for more “translational research” and evidence-based programs to transform practice and policies
- Fiscal year (FY) 2013 solicitations open now
  - Solicitations vary year to year depending on research priorities.
  - For 2013 these are Community Corrections, Crime Prevention, Firearms, Gangs, and Neighborhoods and Crime
- [www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov)
  - Resource on “what works” in justice-related programs.



- Despite White House support for cultural agencies, not a priority in this fiscal environment.
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
  - University audience: humanities faculty
  - Funding for: Fellowships/Seminars, Challenge Grants, Digital Humanities
    - *We the People* (focus on U.S. culture and history) remains popular with Congress.
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
  - University audience: arts, music, dance, literature, design, theater, film, and digital art; not research; grants to institutions, not individuals.
  - Funding for: *Art Works*, *Challenge America*, *Our Town*
  - New Chairman may have new priorities
  - Current effort to partner with other agencies (e.g. Arts and Human Development with HHS).
- Institute for Museum and Library Studies (IMLS)
  - University audience: grants for library/museum operations; not research
  - Funding for: Training for librarians; develop programs to serve middle/high school students (e.g. technology access)
  - Like NEH, support for digital efforts (e.g. *Digging into Data Challenge* – computationally intensive research in the humanities and social sciences.



- Obama Administration interested in getting education research to the practitioners.
- Advanced Research Policy Agency-Education (ARPA-ED)
  - FY 2012 Budget Request; no funding yet/not yet authorized.
  - Funded projects would address specific identified problems in education (e.g. digital tutors as effective personal tutors; courses that improve as more students use them; educational software as compelling as video games).
- Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
  - Sustained funding levels
  - Emerging foci – Research-Practitioner Partnerships; Researcher and Policymaker Training; evaluation of programs (RttT); statewide longitudinal data systems and how to use them.
  - Possible new R&D Center for education research, contracting opportunities.
- Investing in Innovation (i3) and Race to the Top (RttT)
  - Not yet authorized, but a priority for the Administration.
  - LEA must lead or be a close partner.
  - Focus on Administration policy priorities – STEM, Early Learning, Higher Education/ College Cost/ Completion



- Research
  - DoD Basic Research (6.1)
  - DoD Applied Research (6.2)
  - DARPA
  - NSF
  - NIH
  - ARPA-E
  - NASA Space Technology
  - DoE Office of Science
  - Water Resources Research Institute
  - Pediatric Device Consortia

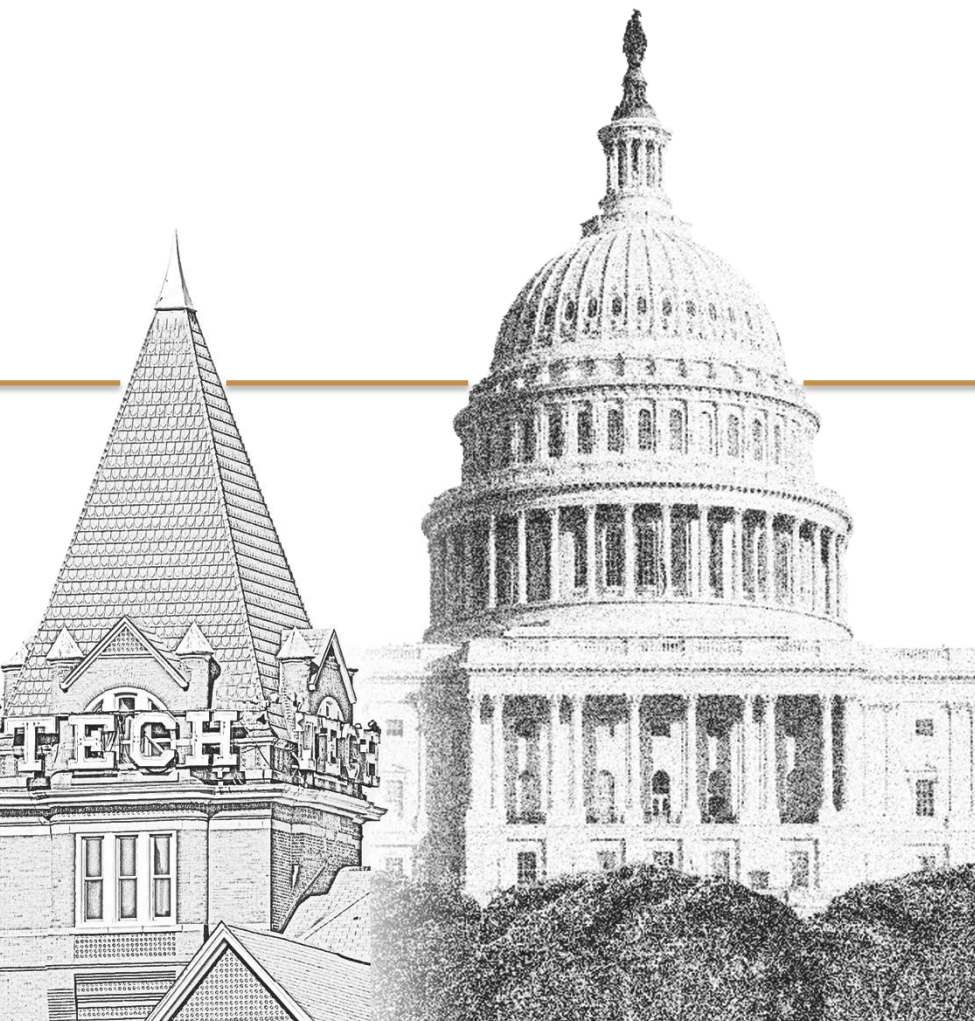




- **Economic Development**
  - Manufacturing Extension Partnership
  - Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms
  - Procurement Technical Assistance
  - EDA programs
  - Assistive Technology
- **Student Aid**
  - Pell Grant
- **K-12/STEM Ed**
  - NASA's Space Grant College and Fellowship Program
  - Department of Education innovation programs: First in the World, Investing in Innovation and Effective Teaching and Learning
- **International Education**



- Work with GT communications officers to highlight the role that federal funding plays in your research breakthroughs and spin-off companies
- Serve on Federal Advisory Committees and National Academy studies
- Volunteer for an IPA or support your faculty who do
- Write your Congressman and Senators
- Read what we send you and give us feedback
- Be careful how you title your projects
- Encourage your students to consider working for the government



***Thank you!***

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